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Secretary of State Expresses Disappointment in and Disagreement with Governor's Veto of Senate File 131

CHEYENNE, WY – On March 17, 2023, Governor Mark Gordon vetoed Senate File 131, an election integrity bill which would have prohibited the practice of distributing unsolicited absentee ballot request forms unless specifically requested by a registered voter.

“I am disappointed in and disagree with Governor Gordon’s decision to veto Senate File 131,” Secretary of State Chuck Gray said. “As originally drafted, the bill banned the practice of sending out unsolicited absentee ballot request forms. This was meant to address a specific problem identified in the last election, in which Liz Cheney’s campaign sent out predatory absentee ballot request forms containing official election language as part of a mass mailing campaign. Liz Cheney’s arrogant move undermined voter confidence and is part of a troubling trend across our country of organizations sending out these request forms in bad faith. The convoluted amendments adopted in the Senate defeated the purpose of the bill and the original language was ultimately restored by the House of Representatives. Our office worked closely with both the sponsor of the bill, as well as members of both chambers of the Legislature, to ensure the best version possible reached the Governor’s desk. This version received overwhelming support, having received a third reading vote of 54-5 directly after the clarifying amendment was passed, and concurrence by the Senate.”

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